

[Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai]

[28th March 1923]

Clause 22—cont.

people who are not of good reputation and of respectable status should not be allowed to stand for election. Those who stand for election must be men of good reputation and of respectable status in life. Only such men can enter the four walls of a temple."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Sir, in rejecting another motion of the same nature, I stated that the amendment was very vague. Besides, in this case, the members are all to be returned by election. It is for the electorate to decide whether a candidate is of good reputation or bad reputation. Under these circumstances I am afraid I cannot accept the amendment."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI :—"If a man of ill-repute were to come in by election, it will lead to endless complaints. Sir, I press my motion for the acceptance of the House."

The motion was put and lost.

Further consideration of the Bill was postponed to the next day.

II

DISCUSSION ON THE HOLDING OF MEETING DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, may I know when the further sittings will be?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"With regard to the further sittings, they are in the hands of the House. Of course in regard to the progress made in the Bill I am not in a position to say when it will be over. All that I can say is, we had better go on with this from day to day until we come to the end of it. I think it will be convenient to hon. Members to do that instead of going home for a few days and then coming back presently in this uncomfortable weather. So I propose to have the meeting to-morrow and I do not know what we should do on Good Friday."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, as far as the Hindu Members are concerned I can say they will have no objection to sit on Friday. I also think that the Christian members will have no objection."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I do not know if the hon. Member is speaking on behalf of the Christian members also."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"As a general rule I think it is undesirable to sit on Good Friday."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"As a general rule it is undesirable, but at the same time it is purely a Hindu Religious Endowments Bill and the Christian members are absenting themselves. Of course, they are entitled to be present. But I do not want to say anything on a matter like this."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, unless the Christian members think it undesirable to sit to-morrow, we may have the meeting to-morrow and the day after."

The question whether the House should sit on Thursday and on Friday (29th and 30th March 1923) was put to the House and the House declared its assent.

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ In regard to day after to-morrow I think we shall decide it to-morrow afternoon when we know where we stand. In any case, I think we need not sit on Saturday and Sunday and we may give a respite to hon. Members and take up the Bill again on Monday.”

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—“ May I suggest, Sir, that if you are not sitting on Saturday it is much better not to sit on Friday but sit on Saturday. I do not want to create a precedent which may be somewhat dangerous. I do not want that any portion of the House should feel that it is put into a delicate position. I think we ought to respect their views and so I would suggest that if you are not going to sit on Saturday, we may transfer the non-session to Friday.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I agree with the hon. Member but it has so happened that I have taken the sense of the House and decided that we should sit on Friday. On Friday we shall know clearly where we stand.”

The House adjourned at 5 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

